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## INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

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SUBJECT Economic Conditions in Ch'ŏngnyang-ni,  
Northwest Korea

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Vital Statistics

1. From February 1951 to the end of May 1952, in Ch'ŏngnyang-ni (125-04, 38-25) (XC-8054), which included four villages with a population of 304 men and 321 women or 125 farm families, 9 men and 19 boys under the age of ten died. In the same period six children were born. There were no marriages.

Government Control Measures

2. In the spring of 1952 the village People's Committee directed the village Farmers' Union to organize the farmers of Ch'ŏngnyang-ni into eight teams. These teams competed with nearby villages in ploughing and sowing. All farmers were compelled to participate in the competition. Those who did not own oxen had to contribute twice as much labor as those who did. Farmers who could not contribute labor had to pay a tax of 10 liters of rice for every 300 p'yŏng (one quarter of an acre) of land. If the payment was delayed until the autumn harvest, the tax was increased to 10 liters plus 5 hop (a pint and a half) of rice. By April 1952, only 29 farmers had been able to contribute labor during the spring season.<sup>1</sup> Because of bombings by United Nations aircraft, the land was tilled only at night. Farmers had to furnish their own seed in the spring of 1952.
3. The farmers of Ch'ŏngnyang-ni were recruited to serve in the national labor mobilization. Each family worked from 20 to 30 days from March to 10 June 1952 at the farm run by the government. Those owning oxen worked only a week or two. During this period, 2,500 people, recruited from other places as well as Ch'ŏngnyang-ni, took part in tilling the government-owned farm. The oxen were worked for 180 days. This labor mobilization was enforced during the busiest farm season. Government authorities assigned instructors to the Ch'ŏngnyang-ni area to teach improved farm methods.

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4. Until the outbreak of the Korean war ammoniated fertilizer, provided by the Hungnam People's Fertilizer Factory, was used abundantly. This factory, however, was destroyed by United Nations bombing. In March 1952, ammoniated fertilizer was used only for seed beds, and farmers were rationed 3.7 kilograms of fertilizer for every 40 liters of seed in comparison to 8 kilograms for 10 liters before the war. The exchange price for 1 kilogram of fertilizer was 1 kilogram of rice. As a substitution for commercial fertilizer, the use of barnyard manure was encouraged. Government authorities stipulated that 400 kwan (3,308 pounds) of barnyard manure be used to fertilize each 300-p'yong rice field, and 600 kwan (4,962 pounds) be used for each 300-p'yong dry field. Actually, only 45 families used manure fertilizer at Ch'ongnyang-ni in the spring of 1952.
5. During the same spring season every farmer in Ch'ongnyang-ni was compelled to make six straw containers for grain and 30 kilograms of rope for the government. One farmer, working with a hand tool, could make six containers in 3 days, and 30 kilograms of straw rope in 12 days. One family of ten turned out 50 containers and 250 kilograms of rope during the spring season. This was a record output. The village produced a total number of 1,650 containers and 8,250 kilograms of rope. The government purchasing price, which had not been paid by June 1952, was 11 won per container and 8 won per kilogram of rope.
6. In the autumn of 1951 and the spring of 1952, each family deposited compulsory savings of 1,500 to 2,000 won in the Farmers' Bank.

#### Farm Equipment in Ch'ongnyang-ni

7. In June 1952 the farmers of Ch'ongnyang-ni owned the following equipment:

|                            |    |                 |    |
|----------------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Ox-carts                   | 20 | Pumping wheels  | 8  |
| Ploughs                    | 40 | Cotton gin      | 1  |
| Thrashing machines         | 12 | Carding machine | 1  |
| Fans                       | 17 | Sewing machines | 8  |
| Straw bag-making machines  | 11 | Weaving tools   | 80 |
| Straw rope-making machines | 2  |                 |    |

#### Industry and Animal Husbandry

8. Ch'ongnyang-ni had one rice polishing mill equipped with a 10-horsepower motor and two ox-driven mills.
9. Cotton cloth production was one of the most important industries in the area, the cloth providing a medium of exchange for payment of taxes and for buying daily necessities. One p'il (55 feet) of cotton cloth was selling for 2,500 to 3,000 won in June 1952. From January to April 1952, 105 out of the 125 families were engaged in cotton cloth production. One family wove 150 to 450 yards of cloth during this period, and the total production for Ch'ongnyang-ni was 30,750 yards.

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10. [redacted] sericulture was one of the most important industries of the area, but it declined after the close of World War II. The administrative authorities, however, exerted pressure to re-establish this industry, and a few farmers were forced to engage in it. In the spring of 1952 6 sheets of cocoons were allocated to Ch'ongnyang-ni and the quota for the season was set at 240 liters.
11. Before the outbreak of the Korean war a considerable number of livestock was raised in the area, but after the occupation by Chinese Communist forces the stock was almost wiped out. There was little hope of a revival of the breeding industry. As a result of United Nations bombing on 2 June 1952, 10 oxen were killed. On 10 June, only 20 oxen, 1 pig, and 15 domestic fowl remained.

Taxes

12. Local taxes in Ch'ongnyang-ni were paid 4 times a year. The amount of each payment ranged from 600 to 1,000 won per family. In addition, the villagers supported public affairs activities by making payments in cash or grain. The rates for various types of activities were as follows:
- a. Village self-defense squad lectures, 1 liter of rice per month from each family.
  - b. Women's Union lectures, 6 liters of rice per month from each member.
  - c. Taxes-in-Kind Appraisal Committee, 4 liters of rice per year from each family.
  - d. Lectures by the chief secretaries of the village People's Committee, held in February 1952, 2 liters of rice from each family.
  - e. Village cell chairman's lectures, 1 liter of rice per month from each family.
  - f. Donation to bereaved families and orphans, contributed in February 1952, 4 to 10 liters of rice from each family.
  - g. Agricultural instructors, stationed at the village, 4 liters of rice a year from each family.
  - h. Village propagandist, 40 liters of rice collected from each people's unit.
  - i. Relief of thirteen war refugee families who were moved from the Kangwŏn Province front line area to the Ch'ongnyang-ni area in October 1951, 20 to 40 liters from each family.
13. The village People's Committee requisitioned food from each family to supply the North Korean army. Between March 1951 and June 1952, the following supplies were requisitioned: 625 crocks of bean sprouts, 10 liters of soy beans per month from each family, 7 kilograms of mountain vegetables from each family, and a number of collections of hot peppers and garlic.

General Conditions and Prospects

14. In June 1952, the food situation in the area was good compared with the situation in the average North Korean village, because neighboring villagers fled to the south en masse in October 1951, which was just before harvest time. The farmers who remained took over the deserted fields and crops. Nevertheless, the food shortage was serious in the spring of 1952 except for the well-to-do

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farmers who were cultivating about 13,000 p'yong (about 11 acres) of land. Most villagers could afford to eat rice only once a day.

15. The farmers of Ch'ongnyang-ni went to the Songhwa (125-08, 38-22) (XC-8648) market, a distance of 12 kilometers, to sell grain and cloth and buy soap, salt, rubber shoes, thread, needles, and other items. Women peddlers went through the village occasionally.
16. There was a daily mail delivery. Postage was 10 won for a letter and 5 won for a card. The letter box was installed in the village People's Committee office.
17. Police were continually urging the people to kill rats, fleas, and flies as a means of preventing epidemics.
18. Prospects for the average farmer in this area were not good. Although rice was sown as usual in 1952, drought and intense United Nations bombing made conditions difficult. In June 1952, it was expected that taxes-in-kind to be collected in the autumn would be more than the year before. In addition, farmers were estimating that the harvest for the autumn of 1952 would be 20 percent under the figure for 1951.

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1.   Comment. It is not clear whether the competing farmers were working on their own land or on a community project, and it is not clear on whose land the penalty tax for defaulting on labor was computed. Presumably they contributed their labor to a collective farm on the order of the government-owned project described in the following paragraph, or perhaps both paragraphs refer to the same project. The tax was probably figured in proportion to the size of the farmer's own plot.

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